Levy of taxes in Rameswaram island.

* 1195 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what taxes are collected in respect of trees, plants and waste-lands in the island of Rameswaram ;

(*b*) under what provisions of law these taxes are collected;

(*c*) whether any representations from the people of Rameswaram have been received by the Government requesting the cancellation of these taxes; and

(*d*) what action the Government propose to take?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Prior to the taking over of the island villages by the Government under the Abolition Act, the estate authorities were not collecting any rent if there were no trees and no cultivation, and were collecting tree tax at certain prescribed rates on the lands containing trees. After the taking over, the Government are continuing the same practice.

" (*b*) Section 23 of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948.

" (*c*) Yes.

" (*d*) Under examination."

Construction of a tank in Itukulapad, Badvel taluk.

* 1196 *Q.*—SRI V. CHIDANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether investigation was completed and plans and estimate prepared finally for forming a new tank for the village of Itukulapad in Badvel taluk of Cuddapah;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned the scheme;

(*c*) if not, why not; and

(*d*) what is the estimate amount and the proposed ayacut that would come under the same?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The scheme was not sanctioned as it would affect supplies to two tanks (Amagampalli tank and Yellareddicheruvu) lower down, which were already not receiving enough supplies to irrigate their ayacut.

" (*d*) It was estimated in 1946 to cost Rs. 1,50,000 for works only and bring under irrigation an extent of 90 acres first crop and 30 acres second crop "